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GIBSON DEDICATES \$4MILLION HEALTH CENTER

The City of Newark's commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens was stressed at the dedication (May 5) for the new Haskin-McCarroll Public Health Center.

Nearly 200 political, business and community leaders gathered in the parking lot of the \$4 million building at 110 William St. to celebrate the largest building to be erected by the municipal government since before World War II.

Dennis Cherot, director of Health and Welfare, said "Mayor Gibson is responsible for the development of this new facility" which is "simply a symbol of progress and a symbol of the city's commitment to improving health care."

"This is a proud day for this administration," the Mayor said, and he expressed his appreciation to Reginald Hale, the center's architect, and to the former city directors of health and welfare in the audience: James Buford, John Waller, Douglas Morgan and Carl Wilson, for helping to make the building possible.

The Mayor proclaimed May 5, as Dr. E. Mae McCarroll and Dr. Aaron H. Haskin Day to honor the civic servants the building is named for and pointed out the contributions Haskin and McCarroll have made to a better quality of life for residents in and out of Newark. "These proclamations are indicative of how we feel about the two people we've dedicated this complex to," the Mayor continued.

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In response to the Mayor's presentation of the proclamations and keys to the city, Dr. McCarroll said "I hope the health care in Newark will become better and better as the years go by."

Mrs. Freda Haskin, who currently lives in Aurora, Colorado, accepted the awards for her late husband and "expressed great honor and it's something I hope the City of Newark will carry on."

Assemblyman Eugene Thompson, D-Essex, cited the state resolutions for Haskin and McCarroll.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Elton E. Hill, Newark business administrator, who said "someone asked me the other day, is Newark dead? I said Newark is not dead and neither is it dying. This building is evidence that this administration has a commitment to Newark and its people."

Dr. Shirley Mayer, New Jersey Commissioner of Health, stated "Governor Kean takes particular pride in the achievement of Newark in bringing about this marvelous facility."

Gibson broke ground for the red brick structure in May 1979 in an effort to provide more effective and efficient health care. It brings together administrative offices, clinics and social services that had been scattered in many locations.

Dr. Haskin, who died in 1974, was Newark health officer for many years. Dr. McCarroll, who is 86 and lives in Miami, Fla., was the first black physician employed at City Hospital.

Tours of the four-story complex were conducted and refreshments were served after the dedication ceremony.